

AN
INTRODUCTORY LECTURE,

DELIVERED IN THE
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS,

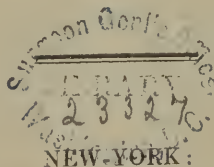
AT THE
OPENING OF THE WINTER SESSION,

ON THE
7TH OF NOVEMBER, 1825.

By DAVID HOSACK, M.D.

Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic and Clinical Medicine in the
University of the State of New-York; and one of the Physicians
of the New-York Hospital.

PUBLISHED AT THE REQUEST OF THE STUDENTS OF MEDICINE.



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At a meeting of the Students of Medicine of the University of the State of New-York, held in the Hall of the College, on Tuesday the 8th of November, 1825, Mr. WILLIAM GRIGG was called to the Chair, and Mr. WILLIAM H. BOYD appointed Secretary.

THE object of the meeting having been stated by the Chairman, it was

Resolved, That in consideration of the able, comprehensive, and eloquent Introductory Lecture delivered by Professor HOSACK, on Monday the 7th of November, a copy of it be requested for publication.

Resolved, That LAWRENCE PROUDFOOT, WILLIAM J. BARRY, and WILLIAM H. BOYD, be appointed a Committee on behalf of the Students, to wait on Professor HOSACK, and acquaint him with the foregoing resolution.

WILLIAM GRIGG, *Chairman.*

WILLIAM H. BOYD, *Secretary.*

NEW-YORK, November 8, 1825.

SIR,

THE undersigned have been appointed as a Committee in behalf of the Students of the University of New-York, to signify to you the feelings of approbation with which your Introductory Lecture, delivered on the 7th instant, was received. In communicating to you the enclosed Resolution, permit us to add, we indulge a hope you will allow no considerations to interfere with this request. The purity of the style, the force of the expressions, the enlarged and comprehensive views it contained of the subjects under consideration, render it a valuable production, and worthy the perusal of the refined gentleman, the polished scholar, and enlightened physician.

With sentiments of the highest respect,

LAWRENCE PROUDFOOT,
W. J. BARRY,
WILLIAM H. BOYD.

TO DAVID HOSACK, M. D.

TO LAWRENCE PROUDFOOT, W. J. BARRY, and WILLIAM H. BOYD,
a Committee of the Students of the University of New-York.

NEW-YORK, November 9, 1825.

GENTLEMEN,

ALTHOUGH I am sensible that the Discourse, a copy of which you ask for publication, has been overrated by the kind and generous feelings of the audience to whom it was addressed, yet believing that the observations it contains, relating to the establishment of Medical Schools, may have a beneficial effect, I cannot feel at liberty to decline a compliance with your request.

Accept for yourselves, Gentlemen, my grateful acknowledgements for the polite and friendly terms in which you have communicated the Resolutions of the Class, and believe me to be, with sentiments of regard,

Your humble servant,

DAVID HOSACK.

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE.

GENTLEMEN, STUDENTS OF MEDICINE,

As introductory to the courses of instruction which it is my duty to deliver in this University, I propose, at this time, to call to your view the more prominent advantages and inducements which this school offers to the students who resort to this city for their medical education ; to point out some of the principal objects which will fall under your notice in the several departments to which your attention will be directed ; and lastly, to add a few remarks upon the manner of prosecuting your studies, so as to obtain in the fullest extent the benefits to be derived from this Institution.

When we look at the situation of New-York as it regards its geographical position in the

union, and the intercourse which it holds with the different states, as well as with foreign countries ; when we take into view its commercial advantages ; its extended and rapidly increasing population ; its numerous literary, scientific, and benevolent institutions, all of which participate in the growing prosperity of this city and state ; we are surprised at the fact that the Medical School of New-York has not yet held that elevated rank in the public estimation that has hitherto been attached to the Medical School of a sister city : for with the single exception of the University of Pennsylvania, which still experiences the beneficial influence of the fame and services of its first founders and teachers, and which at this time is no less sustained by the talents and learning that adorn the seats that but a few years since had been so ably filled, it will be readily conceded that no institution of this country enjoys the same celebrity as the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the University of New-York.

In the first place, it is to be observed that the Medical School of New-York derives a highly

important advantage from the great and diversified population of the city in which it is located.

The numerous and varied character of the diseases of a city containing nearly 170,000 inhabitants, cannot fail to furnish abundant sources of instruction to the medical student.

In like manner, the various and numerous accidents attendant upon a dense population, and in a city whose commerce is extensive, must necessarily afford corresponding opportunities in practical surgery.

Accordingly in New-York, as in the great cities of London and Paris, our Hospital, our City Dispensary, our Infirmaries, our Alms-houses and Penitentiaries, furnish the most ample means of practical information in every department of the healing art, and are conducted in such manner that the student can obtain a ready access to their wards, and receive all the benefits to be derived from institutions of a similar nature in any foreign country. In the New-York Hospital alone, which encloses within its walls nearly four hundred patients, he has more ample opportunities of observing the diseases which most frequently occur in this climate and

country, and which he will have occasion most frequently to meet with in practice, than in any other similar establishment in the United States. Even the Infirmary of Edinburgh, the Hotel Dieu of Paris, or the Hospital of London, do not afford to their pupils the peculiar advantages that are to be obtained at this well-regulated asylum.

In that excellent institution, the New-York Hospital, as well as in the College in which we are convened, you also have access to an extensive medical library, consisting of the most respectable writings, both of ancient and modern times. I cannot pass by this circumstance without bearing testimony to the liberality of the gentlemen who compose the Board of Governors of that institution. Entertaining a due sense of the importance of that establishment, as a place of instruction to the student of medicine, they have not only embraced every opportunity, but have eagerly sought for occasions by which they could render it most profitable to the pupils who attend the practice of the house, as well as a comfortable abode for the sick who are the objects of its charity.

This leads me to remark, that *cæteris paribus*, the city of New-York cannot fail, within a very few years, to possess advantages that must necessarily give her medical institutions the same pre-eminence that she at present enjoys in her commerce and opulence.

Indeed, gentlemen, without the imputation of arrogance or of jealousy, or of disrespect to our neighbours, it may be said, that the day is nigh when the State of New-York and its metropolis will be rendered the literary, as it is now the commercial, emporium of our country. And that her medical institutions will proportionably partake of that prosperity, may reasonably be anticipated; for it is a truth that can never be questioned, that a great medical school can only exist in a great and populous city, and that the advantages of the former must ever be commensurate with the numbers of the latter. This truth, indeed, the experience of all ages fully justifies. Even those hallowed seats of science, Oxford and Cambridge, aided by the munificence of past and present generations, have failed to impart to the student that system of medical instruction which they elsewhere obtain.

However favourable to abstract research and speculative investigation, these classical retreats never formed the practical physician. The British student therefore wisely foregoes the privilege of these august institutions, that he may drink of the living streams of practical knowledge which constantly flow from the thousand channels of the capital. And I cannot believe that our countrymen are prepared to reject the experience of ages, or that our enterprising youth will confide in any other lessons than those which the bedside of the sick exhibits for their improvement. The State of New-York, powerful in wealth, and ample beyond all comparison, with resources that hold a distinguished pre-eminence among her sister cities, cannot be blind to the obvious propriety of contributing to one institution that support which can alone make an adequate return to the community, instead of wasting her strength in various and comparatively unimportant county institutions. I repeat the observation, gentlemen, totally regardless of the feelings of the envious, or of the interested opponents of this opinion, that a great medical school can only exist in a large and populous city.

Sophistry cannot find even a shadow to disguise this truth. Indeed it may reasonably be anticipated, that not only the Legislature of this State, but of every other in the union, will soon perceive the wisdom of concentrating their efforts upon the school of the metropolis, instead of multiplying medical academies in towns and villages, that of necessity can only furnish the rudiments of education, instead of the practical results that are derived from extensive clinical observation and experience.*

* The following excellent remarks on this subject, delivered by my able colleague, Professor MACNEVEN, to his Class, and which he has, at my request, permitted me to subjoin, no less merit the attention of the medical student than of the legislator.

“ You cannot be too diligent in availing yourselves of these Lectures, and other opportunities which this metropolis affords; for many of them are not only important, but they are essential, and such as never can be found out of a large and populous city. It will be your own fault if you look back upon this school of medicine with repentance or with shame; and be well assured, that whatever time you squander here unprofitably idle, will hereafter rise up against you, and be paid for by years of bitter and unavailing regrets. Study, then, I beseech you, so to store your minds with true learning—not that which is only transcribed from books, probably with little judgment as without experience—but that which is derived from the practice of able guides and approved masters of unequivocal acquirements. You will then walk unhurt through the trials that await you, and look down upon the ignorance and error with which you will be surrounded. *Homines ad deos nulla re proprius accedunt quam sa-*

Already begins to dawn the prospect of a better state of things; and the day is at hand, when

ludem hominibus dando; nihil habet nec fortuna tua majus quam ut possis, nec natura tua melius quam ut velis servare quamplurimos.

“Too many decide as if the title of Doctor, no matter where or how acquired, was capable, like the character of Magistrate or Clergyman, of giving to an act efficacy and merit, independently of the skill or judgment with which it is performed. They are careless of examining if the person to whom they commit their safety, had those opportunities for improvement, without which even the best talents are insufficient. It requires neither proof nor illustration, that one who enters upon practice, without having first possessed himself of practical knowledge under the guidance of an enlightened instructor, if he ever improve at all, must do so at the expense of the health and lives of his first patients; and that there can be no rational medicine, and no safe surgery, where there are no means at hand of demonstrating the practice of either one or the other.

“Disease, which it is the object of these arts to prevent and to cure, is denoted by disordered function; disordered function cannot be understood without a knowledge of healthy function; healthy function cannot be understood without a knowledge of structure; structure cannot be understood unless it be examined: consequently little or nothing can be understood where there is little or no opportunity for examination. I refer to those village schools of medicine recently established in our country, where they pretend to teach anatomy and surgery without subjects, and the practice of physic without a patient. I speak of what is incontestable when examined, but which by some is overlooked, by others attempted to be concealed—namely, that the solid basis of a medical education must be laid, and can only be laid, amidst the hospitals and dispensaries, the countless accidents, the numberless distempers, of the multitudinous city. You are, gentlemen, at present in such a place—have all those opportunities before you—and may, with due diligence and assiduous study, reap the rich harvest of professional science, which is hereafter to make your lives useful, your rank honourable, and your old age prosperous and respected.”

the justly merited influence of those now presiding over the destinies of our State and the interests of learning, give us every assurance that our medical and other scientific institutions will receive that support which a liberal and enlightened government has it in its power to bestow.

It is not irrelevant to our present purpose, nor is it inconsistent with an academic exercise, for a moment to advert to a recent event, which cannot fail to add to the resources of our State, and thereby to place within its power the means of advancing the interests of learning, no less than of promoting the general prosperity of our country. I allude, gentlemen, to the completion of the great Western Canal, the joyous celebration of which we have just witnessed, and which will be ever memorable in the annals of mankind, as an exhibition of what may be effected by the energies of a free people, directed by the talents of an enlightened statesman. That great chain of internal communication now completed, was not begun without exciting the envy of the factious and the fears of the timid: but the efforts of genius have at last been crowned with success; and the opposition of the malignant has yielded

to the force of truth. It is in the nature of our republican institutions that faction should triumph for a time; but the good sense and good feelings of the community will at last prevail. Even in our peaceable academic pursuits, contentions and jealousies unhappily arise to mar our harmony and disturb our repose; but I cannot doubt that in the end, purity of motive and honest intention will predominate over all opposition.

In the accomplishment of the great event to which I have referred, inconceivably great has been the effort, and mighty will be the meed to the community who have contributed the means, and to the elevated views which projected, and the persevering spirit that has effected, its successful completion. A portion of the abundant advantages which it will afford to our State, it may reasonably be anticipated will be devoted to the purposes of advancing the general interests of learning, and of this University.

To return to our subject. Another advantage which the student of medicine will receive from the prosecution of his studies in the city of New-York, is derived from the manner in which the

practice of medicine is conducted, as it regards the dispensation of medicine by the physician. For the physicians of New-York still retain the excellent custom hitherto so long and usefully continued throughout this country, of compounding the medicines they prescribe, and of preparing their own prescriptions. This is usually performed by the pupils, under the immediate superintendence and direction of the physician.

The pupil by this daily experience necessarily becomes familiarly conversant with the external characters, the quality, the composition, the dose, and the vehicle of the medicine prescribed, as well as the manner of its exhibition, and other circumstances relating to its administration. The want of this practical acquaintance with the pharmacopœia has not unfrequently exposed the graduated doctor of foreign universities, and indeed of some of the colleges of our own country, as deficient in the very elements of a medical education. Upon some occasions they have scarcely known the external properties of the most common articles of the *materia medica*; and when they have been called at the bed-side, they have then for the first time been compelled

to learn the very doses of the simplest medicine they may have had occasion to prescribe. Facts of this nature have oftentimes fallen under my own observation, and have convinced me that the mode of practice pursued by the physicians of New-York is most beneficial to the community, and, as the means of instruction to their private pupils, affords a great additional security to their patients; inasmuch as the medicines are prepared by those who know the diseases in which they are prescribed, and the circumstances under which they are to be most advantageously directed. It is an additional evidence of the benefits derived from this practice both to the physician and patient, that it has lately been proposed to be renewed, and is likely to come again into general use in the city of Edinburgh. While, therefore, I thus condemn the practice of indiscriminately committing the prescriptions of the physician to oftentimes ignorant and uninstructed venders of drugs, I cannot but indulge the hope, and recommend this subject to the consideration of my brother practitioners, that this mode of conducting the practice of medicine may be steadily persisted in, as no less beneficial to

the sick and to the community, than instructive to the students of the healing art.

I may also, here, take occasion briefly to advert to another practice recently introduced in a neighbouring city, of employing persons altogether uneducated in the profession, either as physicans or surgeons, to perform for them the important operation of blood-letting; persons who, from want of education, must necessarily be incompetent to decide upon the extent to which such operation should be carried, independently of the accidents incident to such operation in such hands, or other embarrassments which might occur during its performance to render its propriety doubtful, or which might contra-indicate the use of it altogether: circumstances in which the physician alone can decide. Accordingly, in New-York blood-letting is with great propriety uniformly performed by the attending physician or surgeon, who proceeds to such an extent as the nature of the case and the circumstances attending it may demand. The pupil necessarily profits by this example so constantly before him, and thereby better qualifies himself as a practitioner.

Another advantage which the medical student obtains from the prosecution of his studies in New-York is, that when he is well introduced and recommended for his talents and correct moral character, he is received in the best and most fashionable society, and treated as a member of a respectable, learned, and liberal profession : this intercourse necessarily improves his mind by conversation, and gives that polish of manner and ease of deportment that prepare him for the higher walks of life, and are so peculiarly necessary in the chambers of the sick.

But it is time that I should proceed to enumerate the more immediate advantages and professional qualifications which the students are to receive within these walls, and which I trust will bear an advantageous comparison with those of any other of the medical establishments of our country. These I shall briefly notice as appertaining to the several departments into which the labours of the Professors are distributed, viz. Anatomy, Surgery, Botany and Materia Medica, Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children, Chemistry, the Theory and Practice of Physic and Clinical Medicine.

The Anatomical course commences with the history of anatomy from the earliest ages to the present period ; after which, the first object is to take a general view of the principal parts of which the body is composed, explaining the use of each, and the manner of their connexion, so as to give a general idea of the animal economy. The Professor then proceeds to investigate, with his characteristic perspicuity and minuteness, the more particular branches of his course, by first unfolding the structure of the different organs, and afterwards explaining their functions. In prosecuting this inquiry, the body is divided into the following systems : 1. Osseous ; 2. Muscular ; 3. Chylopoietic ; 4. Vascular ; 5. Secretory ; 6. Nervous ; 7. Respiratory ; 8. Connecting and Communicating ; 9. Defensive ; 10. Genital. Under one or other of these heads, any part of the human body may be arranged ; and this division is preferred to that in more common use, as being equally expressive and more comprehensive.

The Professor then commences with the Osseous System ; in the consideration of which a particular account of the nature, structure, pro-

perties, and use of bone is given ; together with an explanation of the manner in which bone is formed. The ligaments, as immediately connected with the bony structure, and subservient to the uses for which they are intended, come next under particular notice. Then follows a particular description of the individual bones ; and to render this part of the course more interesting, occasion is taken during the demonstrations, to explain the various dislocations and fractures to which the bones are liable, with the method of treatment best adapted to each particular case.

The Muscular System next comes under consideration ; and after a general account of this part of the body, by explaining the structure, composition, properties, and general use of muscle ; a particular description is given of each particular muscle, with its effects, acting as an independent agent, and those varieties of effects which result from the combined operations of several muscles acting at the same time. A knowledge of the muscles being on many occasions extremely useful to the surgeon, the application of this knowledge to practical purposes is kept con-

stantly in view, and explained as the demonstrations proceed.

After the bones and muscles are understood, the Professor exhibits the organs contained in the two great cavities of the abdomen and thorax. He first takes a general view of the appearances of those organs, their relative situation, form, and connexions; and then enters into a consideration of their particular structure and uses.

This leads to an account of the great Vascular Systems—the Arterial, by which blood is conveyed to every part of the body for the support of its functions; the Venous, to return to the heart what blood is not expended upon the system; and the Absorbent, to supply the materials out of which blood is formed, and to take up and remove from every part of the body, matters which if suffered to accumulate, would endanger the whole system.

In giving a display of those vessels, and on tracing them through the body, more especially the arteries, particular attention is given to their situation in relation to other parts; so as to afford that knowledge of them which is so inter-

esting and necessary to the surgeon on many and very important occasions.

The Nervous System next claims attention. This part of the course begins with an exhibition of the brain, with its coverings. The nature of its substance, as far as it is known, is explained, and its various parts pointed out and shown; together with that extension of it through the spinal column, which, with the brain, is the source of all the nerves in the body. The structure of the nerves—their functions—and the distribution of them through the body, is then made the subject of particular inquiry and demonstration.

The Organs of Sense, as connected more immediately with the nervous system, and essentially dependent on it for the performance of their functions, form the concluding part of the course. These being the inlets to all our knowledge, as well as the source of many of our greatest pleasures, receive that attention in their developement and explanation which the importance of them demands. In giving this very general outline of the Anatomy which is taught in this College, it is proper to observe that the

Professor possesses a very extensive collection of anatomical preparations, which are made use of in illustrating every part of his course.*

It must be further remarked, that the Professor not only gives a very particular account of the anatomy and physiology of the body in its natural or sound state, and this illustrated by the most ample dissections in the public theatre of the College, and in the rooms allotted to this object, but, as far as time permits, enters into a consideration of many of the changes which are produced by disease, and exhibits these changes by numerous and valuable specimens prepared and preserved for this purpose.

The Surgical course is divided into two parts, Operative and Medical Surgery: the latter embracing more particularly the diseases which immediately fall under the notice and care of the surgeon. In the first, the great and leading doctrines of Inflammation are explained, and its importance to the surgeon illustrated.

* See Catalogue of the Anatomical Museum, recently published by Dr. F. G. King. 8vo. New-York, 1825.

The operations are all carefully described and explained, and particular attention is given to the relative anatomy of the parts concerned. As the Professor of Surgery justly remarks, this alliance of anatomy with surgical operations, is of unspeakable value to every practitioner. When the operations are performed upon the subject, a brief recapitulation of the anatomical structure of the parts is premised and found of great service to the pupil.

All the operations which can possibly be performed upon the dead body, are exhibited to the class. Subjects furnished by legislative provision are also procured in sufficient number for the use of the surgical pupils, in order that such as are desirous of these advantages, may go through a course of operations under the direction or advice of the Professor, or of some person competent to superintend that department.

The diseases which form the second part of the course, include all those local affections which commonly have a tendency to affect the constitution, and thereby become general diseases, but which for the most part are primarily of a local character, and require surgical attention :

such as siphylis, scrofula, wounds, tumours, &c. Those parts of the course which are more immediately important to the military and naval surgeon receive particular attention from the Surgical Professor.

The course is rendered truly practical by the frequent illustration by cases taken from private practice, or such as are before the pupil in the New-York Hospital. For scarcely any case or operation can be described, which is not practically illustrated in the public or the private practice of the able Professor of this department.

While speaking of the New-York Hospital, I cannot forego the opportunity to remark, that New-York, pre-eminent as she has long been for her surgical talent, derived from circumstances peculiar to herself, is also largely indebted to this extensive and well-organized charity for the enviable rank she holds in this branch of medical science. More than forty years ago, John Jones, Charles M'Knight, and Richard Bayley, all of this city, formed a bright constellation in the chirurgical art ; and from the efficiency and importance of their professional services, will ever rank high among the benefactors of their

day. Subsequently, individuals not less meritorious have appeared ; among whom the late Dr. Richard Kissam merits our respectful remembrance, and whose long and successful career the profession will ever be proud to acknowledge. And with pride I add, that we have among us at this time, in this University, surgeons equally learned in the science, and skilful in its application to the mitigation of human suffering. Europe has recently in the records of her learning and science, cheerfully acknowledged her obligations to the splendid and felicitous operations recently performed by the distinguished professors of surgery and anatomy in this University. I am happy to be associated with such distinguished coadjutors in the duties of instruction, and I congratulate you, young gentlemen, on the great privileges you enjoy, in being conducted to the temple of knowledge by such able guides, whose experience, judgment, and practical skill will constitute a memorable period in the history of their art.

The course of Lectures on Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children, is preceded by an historical outline of the progress and pre-

sent state of obstetrical science. After exhibiting the anatomy of the parts especially concerned in the function of parturition, the sexual characteristic of the female constitution, together with its numerous derangements, are pointed out, and their necessary treatment indicated. The various theories of generation and of menstruation are briefly noticed; and the causes of barrenness in the female and sterility in the male carefully examined into, and the best practicable means of relief particularly set forth.

Pregnancy, its signs, its diseases, and means of relief, are next considered. The numerous topics of medical jurisprudence connected with this part of the course, are discussed according to their relative importance.

The period of utero-gestation, and the signs of approaching labour, follow. The various kinds of labours are next enumerated, and the stages of natural labour carefully distinguished.

Having considered natural labour, and the changes which take place in the relative situation of parts during the process—the management of the placenta; tedious, preternatural.

complex, or anomalous labours, are next fully brought into view.

The classification and description of obstetrical instruments next receive attention, and their application on the machine exemplified to the class.

The doctrines of superfoetation, spontaneous evolution, and other vexed questions, are then examined. The many disorders to which the parturient female is liable, viz. puerperal fever, hæmorrhages, convulsions, and many others, come under the attention of the Professor. Having fully noticed the diseases of the mother, the management of the new-born infant, and the many affections to which it is subjected, closes the course.

It is proper to add, that in order to enable the Professor of Obstetrics the better to carry into execution the design of his ample course of Lectures, besides his own materials, he has at all times access to the extensive anatomical collections belonging to this University.

The great importance of many questions in medical jurisprudence, and their close connexion with several of the departments of midwifery.

has induced the Professor to embrace all the leading and most recent doctrines of juridical medicine in his obstetrical course.

In this Institution the *Materia Medica* is associated with Botany, and the two branches of knowledge make one course of instruction. The reason for this connexion is grounded upon the obvious propriety of enabling the student to comprehend the principles of the science which teaches the classification, arrangement, and nomenclature of the vegetable productions whence food, medicines, and poisons are derived. It was deemed reproachful, that a well-educated physician should be ignorant of at least as much botany as would enable him to consult professional works with ease and satisfaction, to refer to descriptions in the best performances, and to understand the terms and names which constantly occur in pharmacy and therapeutics.

Accordingly as much of this beautiful and instructive science is taught, as comprehends the elements of the system elaborated by Linnæus, and the improvements subsequently introduced by Jussieu; together with a comprehensive sketch of the three great divisions into, 1. *Syste-*

matical Botany; 2. *Philosophical* Botany; and, 3. *Medical* Botany. Attention is paid throughout the lectures to impart instruction by drawings, specimens, and direct illustrations, wherever the nature of the subject will permit.

“The *materia medica*,” to use the language of the learned Professor of this department, “covers the vast and almost boundless field whence the *noxæ*, or powers hurtful to man, are derived; as *auxilia*, the agents are procured to prevent and remove their injurious operation. The various bodies and qualities inherent in the atmosphere, extricated from the earth, combined with water, prepared by animals, and elaborated by vegetables, are all worthy to be understood, in their several relations to the human frame, as *morbific*, or *sanitary* causes.

“Hence are obtained, by patient and laborious observation, the facts we possess concerning poisons and antidotes; debilitants and roborants; stimulants and sedatives, general and specific; remedies and medicines; external and internal adjuventia; and in short, the whole practice of their administration, both galenical and chemical, simple and compound, officinal and extem-

poraneous, whether published to the world or concealed as nostrums.”

In the arrangement of such a great and multifarious mass of matter, the Professor has availed himself of the attempts made by Cullen, Home, Darwin, Murray, and their modern followers, to select the most interesting and important parts, and to reduce them to order and method; and in the performance of this, pursuing the outline drawn by the distinguished Gregory, in the third part of his “*Conspectus Medicinæ Theoreticæ*,” to connect the whole into a system of therapeutics, wherein the particular operation of the several classes of medicines, and of the individual species, upon the living body, are distinctly stated and explained; comprehending thus a broad view of pathology, physiology, semeiology, indications of cure, and the operations of remedies.

Particular attention is paid to the department of pharmaceutical chemistry; to the importance of pharmacopœias and dispensatories; and to the neat and classical method of writing receipts and prescriptions. The recent labours and learned views which have been taken of this subject by

Dr. Paris, are also brought fully before the student of pharmacy and materia medica.

“New disclosures in the preparation and exhibition of remedies ; modern doctrines relative to diseases and their treatment ; and the most recent intelligence received through an extensive epistolary correspondence, as well as through the journals and periodical papers of the day, are considered matters of high moment, and brought forward from time to time for the instruction of his class.”

An Herbarium has been formed, with great exertion and success, of a great number of medicinal plants. These actual specimens, with their scientific names, and the classes and orders to which they belong, are presented to the students, that they may be put in a situation to acquire in the lecture-room, as much information as it is possible to lay before them.

Particular pains have been bestowed upon the vegetable materia medica of our United States, the richest and most important produced by any quarter of the globe. It may be observed, while dwelling upon this subject, that on the metals, salts, earths, and inflammables, exhibitions of the

various ores, and other natural productions, are made from the Professor's great and growing cabinet of mineralogy.

In the Chemical department of this College, there is no want of assiduity in the learned Professor, nor of any auxiliary means to illustrate and exhibit all the facts and doctrines of the science he teaches. And it is not, at this day, a matter of small moment to possess a laboratory so perfectly well arranged, and an apparatus which is, at the same time, ample and refined, containing all that is adapted to common processes, and to the most delicate and philosophical inquiries. It gives us pleasure that our youth need not necessarily travel from home in quest of those advantages. But yet, though the material of the laboratory is certainly important, it is not in this, that, as a body of scientific men, we take most pride : it is far more in the nature of the courses of instruction which have been offered there to the students of our University for several years.

Within no remote period there has arisen a higher chemistry, that has elevated the art to the dignity of a science, and connected its principles

with mathematics, by the precision of quantity and number. Long before this improved chemistry of definite proportions and atomic weights had found its way into the public prelections at some of the most renowned University schools of Europe, it was regularly and successfully taught in this College, where its importance was immediately felt and duly appreciated.

Chemical experiments and analysis have been performed with entire accuracy only since its general introduction. It is this great improvement that is meant when we speak of the theory of chemical proportions.

Like every other theory, it is merely a mode of representing to the intellect the interior dependence and order of the phenomena; and it is both admissible and sufficient, when it explains all those facts with which we are at the time acquainted. In the study of every science, we are forced always to have a theory, for without it we cannot have arrangement of ideas, or avoid confusion.

Supposing our minds divested of any pre-conceived peculiar notions, and that we endeavour to conceive the cause of chemical proportions.

that which presents itself as the most probable and most conformable to our general experience is, that bodies are composed of particles mechanically indivisible, and which unite in such manner, that a particle of any element combines with one, two, three, or more of another element. This idea is simple and easily comprehended, and it explains all the phenomena of chemical proportions. Particles no longer susceptible of mechanical division, are indiscriminately called particles, molecules, atoms, chemical equivalents, or combining quantities. The idea of atoms repels that of the mutual penetrability of bodies, and is the foundation of the corpuscular, or atomic theory.

The introduction of this theory forms an epoch in the science of chemistry, as the discovery of the gases and of the nature of the alkalies had done at preceding periods. It is lately followed by another term no less remarkable, that of electro-magnetism.

An interesting result of these successive events is, that they have enchain'd chemistry, which used to be an art by itself, to the whole body of the physical sciences, exhibiting it, at every turn.

in the assumption of some new appearance. This is not owing, properly speaking, to fluctuations of opinion; to errors at one time embraced, detected at another, and at last exploded; but it is owing to the incessant and rapid progress of discovery—to the developement of new truths and laws of nature, bearing on various important parts of the material world in a manner before unknown. It has happened in this case, that a vast collection of facts and empirical processes had preceded the formation of the present theory of chemistry; and it increases our confidence in its truth, that it followed rather than preceded discovery—that it is a deduction, and not an hypothesis.

Ours being a College of Physicians and Surgeons, every branch of science taught here is, and should of right be, directed to the ultimate end of all medical studies which is the preservation and recovery of health. Chemistry, like the rest, must have this special purpose. It is therefore directed here to the teaching of the best mode of preparing medicines, of showing how they are altered by mixture, and, if sophisticated, how such fraud may be detected. The disco-

very and decomposition of poisons is an elegant and important part of a physician's duty, but which no one can undertake to perform with certainty and precision, unless he be well instructed in the principles and practice of chemistry. I have great satisfaction in stating thus publicly, that several graduates of our College have distinguished themselves by their knowledge of this delicate subject, greatly to the advantage of their reputation and character, and reflecting the highest credit upon the able teacher of chemistry in this University, and the institution from whence they received their instruction.

Remote as these practical purposes may seem from the more refined philosophical principles of which I have already spoken, experience on this subject has amply proved that the shortest, as well as the surest, mode of becoming master of the applications of chemistry, is by first acquiring its fundamental doctrines. A man may mechanically lay down a chain without geometry, but he will be the greater proficient in surveying when he shall have previously made himself acquainted with the Elements of Euclid.

It remains for me to lay before you an outline of the plan I propose to observe in conducting the ensuing course of Lectures on the Theory and Practice of Physic and Clinical Medicine.

Introductory to the more practical subjects which will fall under our notice, and for the benefit of those who are now about to commence a course of medical study, it is my intention to exhibit a compendious view of the human structure, but more especially directing your attention to the various functions it performs in a state of health, including those appertaining to the mind as well as the body.

In this view, particular attention will be paid to those functions which physiologists have denominated the natural functions of the system.

Under this head, the various excretions, both as it regards their influence in a state of health, as well as the changes they undergo by disease, will receive that attention which their importance demands, and which the recent discoveries in chemical science enable us to bestow.

The causes of disease, whether inherent in the system, or produced by the operation of external agents, will be next briefly enumerated.

The influence of climate—soil—food—sleep—clothing—exercise, both mental and bodily—the passions of the mind—the functions peculiar to the different sexes—the various trades and occupations of life, in as far as they are either directly or indirectly the sources of disease,—will severally fall under our notice in this part of the course.

As the subject of climate embraces circumstances equally interesting to the philosopher and practical physician, particular attention will be given to the influence which it exerts upon the bodily and intellectual powers of man. In connexion with this discussion, due regard will also be paid to the sensible and adventitious qualities of the atmosphere, and their agency in the production of endemic and epidemic disorders.

We shall next inquire how far the functions of the constitution possess in themselves the power of removing diseases, as ascribed to them by most of the ancient and by some modern physicians; and conclude the preliminary part of the course with an outline of the preparatory knowledge which it is necessary for the physician to possess when he approaches the bed-side of the sick.

We shall next proceed to a description of the various diseases to which the human frame is exposed; arranging the whole in such manner as will be best calculated to assist us in acquiring a knowledge of the characters of each, the causes which produce them, and the means to be employed for their prevention and cure.

With this view, I have prepared for your use a system of Practical Nosology, which I hope you may find calculated to aid you in the prosecution of this branch of your professional studies, and by abridging our labour, enable us to advance to a greater extent in this course of lectures than we could otherwise have done. No art or science can be acquired, for none can be clearly treated of or communicated, without arrangement. "Systematic arrangement," says Linnæus, speaking of his favourite science, "is the Ariadnean thread, without which all is confusion."* In like manner, in teaching the practice of medicine, an analogous order or method is essentially necessary to a correct view of the numerous objects it embraces, and the attainment of those general

* "Filum Ariadneum Botanices est systema sine quo chaos est res barbaria."—PHIL. BOT.

principles which alone must direct the practitioner at the bed-side. Although much has been effected by the labours of Plater, Sydenham, Sauvages, Linnæus, Vogel, Sagar, Cullen, and their successors, in this field of inquiry, which lay uncultivated until the publication of the *Praxis Medica* of the first of those writers in 1602, it will readily be admitted that the writers upon methodical nosology have, in general, been more desirous of displaying their ingenuity and learning, in subtle subdivisions of their subject, and in devising a new nomenclature, than they have been in directing their labours to the great and useful purpose for which nosological arrangement was originally designed. In the details of the synopsis submitted to you, it will be readily perceived that I have been more solicitous to convey a distinct enumeration of the characteristic, or pathognomonic symptoms of diseases, and to form those associations which are connected with their cure, than to observe the rigid rules enacted by the naturalist in the formation of genera and species. Indeed, it is justly admitted by two of the latest and most learned critics*

* Dr. Young and Dr. Good.

upon this subject, that the same precision is not to be expected in the science of medicine, that has been attained in the various branches of natural history. "It is true," says Dr. Young, "that we must not expect the same rigid accuracy in medicine, that may be obtained in some of the departments of natural history, since, in fact, many of the distinctions which are required in a nosological method, are rather established for the sake of practical convenience, than strongly and immutably characterized by nature."* A similar remark is made by Dr. Good. "It is not, indeed, to be contended," says that classical writer, "that the distinctive signs of diseases are as constant and determinate as many of the distinctive signs that occur in zoology or botany: and so complicated is the animal machinery, so perpetually alterable and altered by habit, climate, idiosyncrasies, and the many accidental circumstances by which life is diversified, that the general rule must admit of a variety of exceptions, and is here, perhaps, rather than any where else, established by such exceptions."

* Introduction to Medical Literature.

For this purpose I have arranged diseases into the eight following classes :

1. *Febres*, (fevers,) embracing the various forms of

Intermitting,
Remitting, and
Continued Fevers.

2. *Phlegmasiæ*, (inflammations,) containing all diseases of an inflammatory nature.

3. *Cutanei*, (diseases of the skin,) in which all the cutaneous diseases are arranged agreeably to the orders adopted by Drs. Willan and Bateman.

4. *Profluvia*, (excessive discharges,) including all hæmorrhages, as well as the morbid discharges which take place from the excretory organs of the system.

5. *Suppressiones*, (suppressions,) or those discharges which consist in a suppression or diminution of the natural evacuations.

6. *Neuroses*, (nervous diseases,) embracing all those which more especially reside in the nervous system, including the various diseases of the mind, as well as those of the body.

7. *Cachexie*, (vitiations,) the diseases more peculiarly arising from a morbid condition of the fluids of the system; including those which arise from their redundancy either general or partial, as the various forms of dropsy, and those disorders which proceed from a vitiated state of the circulating mass.

8. *Locales*, (local diseases,) containing tumours, dislocations, wounds, ulcers, and other diseases usually denominated local.

The subject of fevers which fall under the daily observation of every practitioner, and which derives peculiar importance from the epidemics with which the United States have been visited since the year 1791, and which have very recently made their appearance in the Southern States, will also receive a very particular investigation. In describing the treatment of diseases, we shall not only minutely detail the remedies to be prescribed, their mode of operation, and the different stages in which they are severally indicated; but the diet of the sick, including all those circumstances which can have an influence upon the character of their disorders, and which it is equally the duty of the physi-

cian to direct, will also be embraced in this course of lectures.

In your attendance upon the New-York Hospital, you will also have an opportunity of observing the application of the principles in which you are now to be instructed, and of obtaining a practical knowledge of the symptoms, causes, and treatment of those maladies which are of most frequent occurrence in our climate and country, and which will daily fall under your notice when you may be engaged in the practice of your profession. Besides a daily visit for this purpose to the sick, it is my intention, three times in each week, to accompany you through the wards of the hospital, and at the bedside to direct your attention to the most important cases, to point out the characteristic symptoms of each case, and to afford you an opportunity of witnessing the result of the treatment that may be directed.

Taking upon myself this extensive and important trust, I am not only sensible of the duties which devolve upon me as your teacher, but I have been too much conversant with the sufferings of the sick room, not also to feel great re-

sponsibility for the correctness of the doctrines and principles in which you are now to be instructed.

Under these impressions I shall faithfully lay before you every truth which reading, reflection, observation, my own practice, as well as that of others, may enable me to collect. And in communicating to you those facts which practice has presented to me, I shall also consider it my duty to relate to you, with the same fidelity, those cases in which my treatment of the disease may have terminated unsuccessfully, as I shall those which have ended in the relief or restoration of my patient. Facts of this nature, like beacons to the mariner, will be found valuable auxiliaries in enabling you to conduct your patient with safety through the numerous and oftentimes hidden dangers which the varied form of diseases frequently conceals.

Such is the outline of the course I shall endeavour to execute, and which I hope will comprise a detail of facts, and a summary of principles and practice not unworthy of your attention.

Before I enter, gentlemen, upon the immediate subjects of our course. allow me to recommend

to you, during your attendance upon these Lectures, the practice of making written notes, or memoranda, of what you may see and hear. By notes, I do not mean stenographical writing. This practice upon this occasion is to be reprobated, for the writer in this case becomes a mere machine—he copies words, not thoughts; but I mean an analysis of what you hear, with a record of the most essential facts, and the authorities upon which they are related, and which should afterwards be expanded at your leisure. This exercise is attended with many advantages: it secures your attention to the subject before you; it gives the mind a habit of analyzing what we hear; it gives us order and connexion in the arrangement of our thoughts; and especially it gives us a facility in committing those thoughts to paper, an exercise which physicians, in many instances, to the disgrace of our profession, are too apt to neglect. This is not all; such memoranda will be afterwards referred to with advantage. It was said by Boerhaave, that a physician never remembers more than three years of his practice: but by the habit of recording what passes, whether in our own or in the practice of

others, we do not depend upon our memories; our memories, like sieves, retain but the bran of our knowledge—they let the finest and most valuable materials escape; whereas that which is written remains, and is preserved.

The stupendous minds of Boyle, Locke, Lord Oxford, Voltaire, Gibbon, Pope, Priestley, did not depend, for the retention of the knowledge they acquired, upon their memories; they were in the constant habit of noting, with their pen or their pencil, every thing they wished to remember. Voltaire, knowing how fugitive knowledge is, made his memoranda in public companies: even at a full table, he has been observed frequently to take out his note-book, and to record every fact which he acquired that he deemed of importance. Pope, you will recollect, when on a visit to his friend, Lord Oxford, rang his bell at midnight, and disturbed the whole house, calling for his candle, to note a thought, or to write a line, that had just then occurred to him, and which, like the dream, would have vanished before the morning.

The celebrated historian Gibbon, too, tells you that “he investigated with his pen always

in his hand." So sensible too, was the celebrated Montaigne of this aid to the memory, that he emphatically declares "he can do nothing without his memorandum-book." Lord Bacon was no less impressed with the importance of committing to paper whatever we wish to know correctly. Hence his aphorism: that reading makes a full man; speaking, a ready man; and writing, a correct man.

To the same practice, doubtless, is to be ascribed the accurate, varied, and extensive attainments of Dr. Priestley, as well as the numerous and elaborate works he has published upon various subjects, theological, political, chemical, and philosophical. When his memory became impaired, he tells you, "apprised of this defect, I never fail to note down, as soon as possible, every thing that I wish not to forget." This, too, he did in public company, as you will see noticed in the interesting memoirs published by his son.

The writings of Dr. Franklin, who never read without his pencil; of Dr. Cadwallader Colden, the celebrated historian of the Five Nations; of Dr. Rush; and of the late President Edwards,

whose celebrated work on the Will, like Euclid's Elements, will remain as an extraordinary example of correct reasoning and of the powers of the author's mind,—might also be cited, to show how much has been accomplished by the practice I am recommending for your imitation. It is said of Dr. Edwards, that when travelling, he often alighted from his horse, and retired from the road into a wood, for the purpose of recording in his memorandum-book the thoughts which were at that time passing through his mind. The writings of that great man, a native of our country, are alone sufficient to preserve the reputation of America from the imputation it has lain under, that the mind of man degenerates on this side of the Atlantic; for Edwards and Locke can never be separated as the historians of the human mind. You will find in the Life of the Rev. Dr. Erskine, by Sir Harry Moncrieff Wellwood, that Edwards is spoken of in the highest terms of panegyric.

I might go on to illustrate the advantages of this practice, by referring you to the instructive writings of his Excellency De Witt Clinton, the able and learned Governor of this State. Every

page he has published displays the valuable fruits of the labour which in this way he has undergone. Upon whatever subject the talents of Mr. Clinton are called for, owing to this habit, he comes to it with an exhaustless source of information; and such is the facility with which he commits his thoughts to paper, in consequence of this daily use of the commonplace-book, that he astonishes his friends by the sudden and unexpected, as well as the able, performance of any duty which in this way he may have occasion to perform. The physician, of all others, should early adopt this practice of making a daily record of what is passing; for he has a greater variety of facts to record, and on a greater variety of subjects, than are to be met with in any other of the learned professions.

It is impossible for the mind occupied with any active pursuit, to retain all that it receives: it is still more difficult for the physician—not only on account of the various subjects and the multiplicity of occurrences which press upon his attention in his daily walks, but from the mental anxiety to which he is exposed; the fatigue both of mind and body which attends the practice of

medicine, are all calculated to impair the memory. When thus severely exercised, you will lay down your burden, and relieve all your mental faculties by the use of a memorandum, or commonplace-book. For this purpose, let me advise you early to supply yourselves with such a volume, in which you can enter every important truth you may acquire either by reading, by observation at the bed-side, or that may be in any other manner communicated, whether by lecture, in the course of conversation, or that may be suggested by the operation of your own understanding. Let all your senses be so many videttes to the mind. In such a volume insert every thought, word, or deed that you may deem important. *Nulla dies sine linea*, was the rule of the celebrated painter Apelles. It was also adopted by the great orator of Rome, and by the celebrated Swedish naturalist, Linnæus. It is no less necessary as the motto of the physician; for every day will bring with it some new truth to the mind that is thus kept in an absorbing state. In like manner every volume you peruse, whether of history, travels, philosophy, biography, poetry, belles-lettres, or metaphysics, will

supply the observant physician with materials that may be applied to some useful purposes in medicine, when viewed and conducted as a branch of science.

“*Studium sine calamo somnium*,” says some distinguished writer. The physician should, of all others, treasure up this line, for to read without his note-book at his elbow, is indeed to dream.

Allow me to recommend to you another means of impressing upon your minds what you may acquire that is new or interesting in your attendance upon the lectures now to be delivered in this College; that of conversing with each other, and by mutual examinations, comparing your several views of the truths or doctrines that may be delivered. Where two or three of you occupy the same chamber, such intellectual commerce, such collision of mind with mind, will be found particularly instructive. A single winter thus passed, will give you more knowledge than years spent in solitary reading or meditation. While evil communications corrupt good manners, so on the contrary, the associations between men of kindred minds in the pursuit of know-

ledge, illuminate and advance each other to the highest degree of improvement.

The poet observes, that

“To a Bentley 'tis we owe a Boyle.”

It may be observed, that in our profession, similar associations have been productive of analogous benefits to the science of medicine. It was in this way that Dr. Fothergill and Dr. Cleghorn, Dr. William Hunter and Dr. Cullen, Dr. Whytte and Dr. Black, were the mutual sources of each other's fame and usefulness; for in this interchange of thought they severally occupied the intervals that occurred during their attendance upon public lectures. Dr. Hugh Williamson, the historian of North-Carolina, and the author of many other valuable publications, and his associate the late Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, the Rev. Dr. Ewing, and the celebrated American astronomer Rittenhouse, doubtless excited each other's minds to the achievements in science which they have effected, and to the similarity of their pursuits, particularly in the cultivation of astronomy, their favourite department of knowledge. Much too, gentlemen, of the merit, the learning,

the ardour of pursuit, and the high professional attainments and skill which distinguished the late worthy and lamented President of this College, Dr. Samuel Bard, is probably to be ascribed to those early connexions which he formed when a pupil, at the school of Edinburgh, then in the zenith of its fame and usefulness. Intimately connected as he was with Dr. Hagarth, Dr. Percival, Dr. Saunders, Dr. Sims, Sir Lucas Pepys, Dr. Willan, and many others whom I could enumerate, and all giving celebrity to the age in which they lived, it was impossible not to partake of the same spirit by which they were animated. By the reiterated impressions thus made upon the mind by the intercourse I refer to, that knowledge which it is most necessary we should possess, becomes permanently lodged in the memory.

With the same view of renewing the recollection of those truths which it is most important you should retain, I propose to devote a few minutes, at the commencement of each lecture, to a familiar examination upon the subject of each discourse. This practice assists in rendering knowledge portable ; and which, generally

speaking, is the most useful kind of knowledge to the practitioner at the bed-side of the sick. "Omnia mea mecum porto," should be the student's motto. It was a direction given by that distinguished divine, Dr. Watts, to a person whose memory was not retentive, "Sir, if you wish to remember what you hear or read, make it a rule to repeat it in the first company you go into." In this way, gentlemen, I propose to afford you an opportunity of repeating, in this assembly of your fellow students, what you may hear, or it may be useful to remember of each day's discourse.

This examination too, will be found especially useful to prepare you for those exercises which are conducted with more strictness, and which you are to undergo when you may offer yourselves as candidates for admission to the honours of the profession; for by this daily practice of examination, the pupil soon learns his strength or feels his weakness. I have always remarked, and it affords an additional proof of the utility of this mode of fixing the subjects of the lectures permanently in the understanding, that those gentlemen who have availed themselves of a

punctual attendance upon these daily examinations, have always appeared to the most advantage, and have acquitted themselves with most honour when they have been examined by the Board of Professors for their degrees as Doctors of Medicine; while many of those who have been less punctual in their attendance, and who have been rather studious to avoid such examinations, have failed in their efforts to attain that honourable evidence of the completion of their course of study, that would otherwise have been the reward of their attention and industry.

Let me, upon this occasion, recommend to such of you as are about to prepare for graduation at an early period of the session, to make choice of a suitable subject for your inaugural dissertation, in order that you may be prepared with an exercise fit for the public eye, as well as merely qualifying you for your medical honours. The neglect of exacting the publication of this evidence of medical talents in many of our American Universities, has very much impaired the reputation of those institutions; for in consequence of this omission, their degrees have degenerated, I had almost said, into common certi-

ficates of the time of the pupil's attendance, instead of being the testimonials of his abilities or his attainments.

While, then, the degrees in this College are conferred by the Chancellor and Regents of the University, the highest literary authority, and the only legitimate source of medical degrees in this State, let the world also receive the evidence of your qualifications besides your diploma.

An inaugural dissertation, such as that of Dr. Fothergill, on Emetics; Dr. Gregory, on Climate; Dr. Monro, on Dropsy; and those by our countrymen, Dr. Rush, and Dr. Stevens (now of St. Croix), on Digestion; Dr. Bard, on Opium; Dr. Kuhn, on cold washing in fevers; Dr. M'Lurg, on the properties of the Bile,—not only contribute to the science of medicine, but becomes a valuable introduction and passport to practice, and a source of reputation through life. I am proud to remark, that many exercises of this nature, formerly published at the University of Pennsylvania,* and recently by the pupils of this College,†

* Dr. Pennington, on Fermentation; Dr. Woodhouse, on the Penimmon Tree, &c. &c.

† Dr. Francis, on Mercury; Dr. Anderson, on the Eupatorium; Dr. Dyckman, on the Pathology of the Human Fluids; Dr. Beck, on Infanticide; Dr. Stewart, on the Diseases of Genius, &c. &c.

have reflected the highest honour upon their authors, and the institution at which they received their education. Let me add for your encouragement, gentlemen, that your Professors will point out to you numerous and valuable subjects for such exercise of your talents, and at the same time tender to you every aid and counsel as preparatory to their publication.

UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW-YORK.

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

City of New-York, September 5th, 1825.

THE College of Physicians and Surgeons will commence their Course of Lectures, for the ensuing session, on the first Monday of November next, (the 7th,) at the College in Barclay-street.

Dr. HOSACK, *on the Theory and Practice of Physic, and Clinical Medicine.*

Dr. MACNEVEN, *on Chemistry.*

Dr. MITCHILL, *on Botany and Materia Medica.*

Dr. POST, *on Anatomy and Physiology.*

Dr. MOTT, *on Surgery.*

Dr. FRANCIS, *on Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children.*

WRIGHT POST, M.D. *President.*

JOHN W. FRANCIS, M.D. *Registrar.*

UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW-YORK.

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

City of New-York, September 6th, 1825.

SIR,

IN answer to repeated and urgent applications for information concerning the present condition of the College of Physicians and Surgeons in the city of New-York, it gives us great pleasure to state that, from the circumstances which have recently occurred, its prospects of extensive usefulness are more flattering than ever.

At the close of the past winter session, the Honourable the Regents of the University, the supreme governing authority of the College, at their sittings in Albany, after a full and ample investigation of the affairs of the Institution, made two several reports on the same. These documents were extensively circulated in the public journals, and afforded to all entire conviction of the futility of the charges preferred. This most satisfactory vindication, the result of the labours of an enlightened, disinterested, and high-minded tribunal, will the better enable the Professors to promote the interests of medical science in a school which has already largely contributed to cherish a distinguished portion of the professional talent of the country.

Under these happy auspices we look for a continuance of the support of our medical brethren in different parts of the Union. The means of instruction in the several departments of the College have been recently augmented; and additional facilities will be offered in Anatomy and Chemistry, as well as in the other branches of science. We beg leave to assure you, that every laudable measure will be adopted still further to elevate the character of this school of medicine; to render agreeable the situation of the student; and to give to collegiate honours a real claim to utility and distinction.

With sentiments of respect and consideration,

WRIGHT POST, M. D.

DAVID HOSACK, M. D.

WILLIAM J. MACNEVEN, M. D.

SAMUEL L. MITCHILL, M. D.

VALENTINE MOTT, M. D.

JOHN W. FRANCIS, M. D.

To _____.

